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CRICKHOWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY SURVEYOR-INSPECTOR

ON THE

HEALTH & SANITARY CONDITIONS

OF THE

CRICKHOWELL RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1937

WITH STATISTICAL TABLES

DOVER & CO. (TYP. T.U.) ABERGAVENNY

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Members of the Rural District Council for 1937.

Parish Represented	*Name*
Crickhowell	E. H. S. Jones, Esq. W. G. Watkins, Esq.
Cwmdu	William S. Powell, Esq. William Pritchard, Esq.
Llanbedr-Ystradwy ...	David Howat Jones, Esq.
Llanelly	John Gunter, Esq. Thos. J. Edmunds, Esq. W. R. Powell, Esq. A. J. Thomas, Esq.
Llangattock	Rev. R. M. Cole-Hamilton. James Davies, Esq.
Llangenny	John Jones, Esq. W. G. James, Esq., J.P., Chairman
Llangynidr	C. S. Farr, Esq. John Thomas, Esq., Vice-Chairman
Partrishow	William Nicholls, Esq.

Officials, Etc. (*Part Time).

Clerk and Solicitor : *THOS. VAUGHAN.

Medical Officer of Health : *J. S. TOWNLEY, M.B., CH.B., L.R.C.P., and S.B.

Sanitary Surveyor and Inspector
Waterworks Manager
Inspector under Petroleum Acts
Supervisor of Street Lighting
} E. R. MORGAN, Cert. R. San. I., M.S.I.A.

Additional (Temporary) Sanitary Inspector : G. M. JAMES, Cert., S.I.B.

(The Council receive grants towards the salaries of the M.O.H., S.I. and Additional S.I.)

Clerk in the four latter departments : A. MERVYN THOMAS.

Accountant, Chief Rating and Valuation Officer : ARTHUR J. ROGERS, (A.R.V.A.)

Rate Collector : THOS. J. JONES. Cashier : VINCENT M. T. LESLIE.

Plumber and Fitter : J. H. WILLIAMS.

Sanitary Orderly : EDGAR DAVIES (Crickhowell & Llangattock Parishes).

Caretaker of Offices : WM. BOWEN.

Scavenging Contractors :
*Part Time. Covering seven separate scavenging areas.

*Sanitary Orderly (Clydach) : Provided by Public Assistance Committee, for roadside gutter cleansing.

Other Labour : Skilled and unskilled labour requisitioned as required.

Council Meetings : Every Fourth Thursday at 2-30 p.m.

First Meeting, 1937 : January.

COMMITTEES : The whole of the Council form the Rating and Valuation Committee.
The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and the four members for Llanelly Parish form the Llanelly Water Committee.
Other Committees or Sub-Committees are appointed to deal with special matters.

Council Offices and Meeting Chamber : Beaufort Chambers, Crickhowell.

Telephones : Council Offices—Crickhowell No. 71.
Clerk (Residence and Private Office)—Crickhowell No. 20.
Medical Officer of Health (Residence)—Crickhowell No. 27.
Sanitary Surveyor-Inspector (Residence)—Gilwern No. 11.

Beaufort Chambers,
Crickhowell.
June 16th, 1938.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my 6th Annual Report, and the Sanitary Inspector's 26th Annual Report, for the year 1937.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area 46,140 acres.

Population.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1937 ... 6,566.

Inhabited Houses. 1,938.

Rateable Value. £20,160.

Sum represented by Penny Rate, £77 17s. 9d.

Industries and Social Conditions.

As contemplated in my previous report the industrial position in the neighbouring industrial districts is improving, more particularly in the Urban District of Ebbw Vale, in connection with the New Strip Mill which is being established by Messrs. Richard Thomas & Co. Many of our working men have already been engaged by constructional firms, and it is hoped that many more will find permanent employment when the Strip Mill is in full working order. Apart from the foregoing, the social and industrial conditions of this area have not varied to any great extent from previous years.

Social Services.

Praiseworthy endeavours are being made by various social services to organise Welfare Centres, Occupational Centres and Boys' Clubs in the Parish of Llanelly. The latter parish includes over one-half of the population of the district and is industrial in character, coal-mining and quarrying being the chief occupation of the people. Therefore it is in this parish unemployment is the most pronounced.

Unemployment in the District.

This district is still scheduled as a Distressed Area.

Statement showing the number of persons registered as Unemployed on the 31st December, 1937, at the Crickhowell and Brynmawr Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour.

	Total Number of Persons Registered.				
Local Office	*Men*	*Boys*	*Women*	*Girls*	*TOTAL*
Crickhowell ...	161	3	4	—	168
Brynmawr ...	1233	40	24	42	1339

Notes.

(1). It has been ascertained that all the persons registered at the Crickhowell Local Office were resident in the area of the Crickhowell Rural District Council.

(2). It is not possible to ascertain the number of persons registered at Brynmawr Local Office resident in the Crickhowell Rural District. It will, however, be noted that the number of unemployed on the register as compared with the number given in the report last year is considerably lower. It is estimated that 25% of those registered at Brynmawr are resident in the Crickhowell Rural District.

Public Assistance.

(a). Residents in the Council's Area in receipt of relief on December 31st, 1937 :—

	Householders	*Persons*
Lower District (all parts with the exception of Llanelly Hill)	124	319
Llanelly Hill	27	60
Totals ...	151	379

Note.

The number of householders and persons in receipt of relief in the area is considerably less than that given in the 1936 report.

(b). Number of Persons from the Council's Area in the Poor Law Institution at Llangattock.

Parishes	*Males*	*Females*	*Children*	*TOTAL*
Crickhowell ...	12	1	—	13
Llangynidr ...	—	1	—	1
Llanelly ...	1	1	—	2
Totals ...	13	3	—	16

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

Births.

		Total	*Males*	*Females*
	Total ...	83	42	41
Live Births	Legitimate	81	42	39
	Illegitimate	2	—	2

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 12·6

		Total	*Males*	*Females*
	Total ...	6	3	3
Still Births	Legitimate	6	3	3
	Illegitimate	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births ... 67·6

Deaths.

	Total	*Males*	*Females*
Total ...	97	59	38

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 15·9

Transferable Deaths ... Inwards ... 10 Outwards ... 2

Comparability Factor ... 0·87 Comparative Mortality Rate ... 13·8

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

	Deaths	*Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births*
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes ...	Nil	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

	Total	*Males*	*Females*
Total ...	7	5	2
Legitimate		—	—
Illegitimate		—	—

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ... 84·3

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 84·3

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	13
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	2
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	Nil

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

1936 M.	1936 F.		Causes.	1937 M.	1937 F.
55	38		All Causes	59	38
0	0	1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0	0
0	0	2.	Measles	0	0
0	0	3.	Scarlet Fever	0	0
0	0	4.	Whooping Cough	1	1
0	0	5.	Diphtheria	0	0
2	1	6.	Influenza	2	0
0	0	7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0
0	0	8.	Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	0
2	2	9.	Respiratory Tuberculosis	4	3
0	0	10.	Other Tuberculosis	0	1
0	0	11.	Syphilis	0	0
0	0	12.	General Paralysis of Insane	0	0
6	5	13.	Cancer	9	4
1	0	14.	Diabetes	0	0
2	1	15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1	0
9	10	16.	Heart Disease	17	8
0	0	17.	Aneurysm	0	0
11	1	18.	Other Circulatory Diseases	3	5
2	0	19.	Bronchitis	4	2
2	0	20.	Pneumonia	2	3
0	0	21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	3	5
0	0	22.	Peptic Ulcer	1	0
1	0	23.	Diarrhœa under 2 years	0	0
0	0	24.	Appendicitis	0	1
0	1	25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	0	0
0	1	26.	Other Liver Diseases	0	0
3	0	27.	Other Digestive Diseases	1	0
3	2	28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4	3
0	0	29.	Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
0	1	30.	Other Puerperal Diseases	0	0
1	5	31.	Congenital Causes, etc.	3	1
0	1	32.	Senility	4	3
2	0	33.	Suicide	0	0
2	1	34.	Other Violence	2	0
6	6	35.	Other Defined Diseases	1	3
0	0	36.	Ill-defined or N.K.	0	0
0	0	37.	Diarrhœa, 2 years and over	0	0

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1937.

(England and Wales, London, 125 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns).
Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	125 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
	Rates per 1,000 Population.			
Births—				
Live ...	14·9	14·9	15·3	13·3
Still ...	0·60	0·67	0·64	0·54
Deaths—				
All Causes ...	12·4	12·5	11·9	12·3
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers ...	0·00	0·01	0·00	0·00
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	0·02	0·03	0·02	0·01
Scarlet Fever ...	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01
Whooping Cough ...	0·04	0·04	0·03	0·06
Diphtheria ...	0·07	0·08	0·05	0·05
Influenza ...	0·45	0·39	0·42	0·38
Violence ...	0·54	0·45	0·42	0·51
Notifications—				
Smallpox ...	0.00	—	0·00	—
Scarlet Fever ...	2·33	2·56	2·42	2·09
Diphtheria ...	1·49	1·81	1·38	1·93
Enteric Fever ...	0·05	0·06	0·04	0·05
Erysipelas ...	0·37	0·43	0·34	0·44
Pneumonia ...	1·36	1·58	1 20	1·18
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	58	62	55	60
Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	5·8	7·9	3·2	12·0
Maternal Mortality—				
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0·97	Not available		
Others ...	2·26			
Total ...	3·23			
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).			
Maternal Mortality—				
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0 94	Not available		
Others ..	2·17			
Total ...	3·11			
Notifications—				
Puerperal Fever ... / Puerperal Pyrexia ...	13·93	17·59	11·52	4·15 / 14·34

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(1). A list of Public Health Officers of the Council is on the first page of this Report.

(2). Changes in Medical Services :

(a) Laboratory Services. (b) Ambulance Facilities (c) Nursing in the Home (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics including clinics solely for diagnosis or consultation.	These have been dealt with in a previous report.

Arrangements exist whereby small-pox patients may be sent to an Isolation Hospital under the control of the Breconshire County Council.

Isolation Hospital.

Land has been acquired and plans prepared for an Isolation Hospital for the joint use of the Sanitary Authorities in the County, and it is believed that no further obstacles will have to be overcome to further delay such a much needed institution.

Apart from the foregoing, the Council have no control over any hospital, but no difficulty has been experienced in getting Scarlet Fever patients (when necessary) admitted to the Monmouth Isolation Hospital.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supplies.

The year 1937 was perplexing in consequence of the drought affecting springs in the higher levels of Llanelly Parish.

Many of these supplies either failed or were intermittent. Consequently it was found necessary in this year as in previous years for the Council to engage haulage contractors to deliver water to the areas in which the water supply had failed. For some months was this procedure necessary in the Waenavon area of Llanelly Hill and the Twynwenallt area of Gilwern. It was also necessary for a number of weeks to haul water to the Church Road area of Clydach. Below are given particulars of the areas served, periods during which hauled, and the expenses incurred.

PARTICULARS OF AREAS SERVED.

Areas Served.	Periods.		Cost. £ s. d.
Llanelly Hill : Waenavon, Waenwen Llammarch, Upper Gelly, Cwmnantgam	10th July October 30th	... ...	45 9 0
Clydach : Top of Village Rhonos Road Church Road	October 19th October 23rd	...	0 10 0
Gilwern : Wenallt	October 19th November 30th	...	15 12 0
	Total Cost	...	£61 11 0

The necessity for hauling did not arise in any other parts of the district. Nevertheless constant supervision and adjustment of valves was almost a daily practise in order to secure a fair distribution of the supplies.

Handbills and circular letters were distributed warning the people against the mis-use or waste of water during the period of drought.

New sources of supply have been, and are being, acquired in various parts of the district.

Schemes have been carried out and others are under consideration.

Mains have been extended in different parts of the district.

Samples of water have been taken for bacteriological and chemical analysis. Reports of same are shown elsewhere. The policy of connecting houses direct to the water service followed by the abolition of roadside public standpipes is being pursued.

Summary of Chief Schemes, Extensions, Alterations and Improvements.

Llangenny Lane Extension, Crickhowell.

To facilitate the erection of dwelling-houses at Llangenny Lane, Crickhowell, the water main was extended in 2 inch cast iron pipe from Greenhill. Since then eleven houses have been connected to the main.

Major Cox, of the Ministry of Health, when making investigations into another matter in the district, also made notes of all parts of the Crickhowell Rural District which were experiencing drought.

Llangynidr Extensions.

Applications were received from the residents along Sardis Road, Llangynidr, for the extension of the main along this road. Investigations into the number of consumers and the length of the main necessary were made. Owing to similar demands in other parts of Llangynidr Parish and a possibility of the whole of the schemes being overhauled the matter is still in abeyance.

Llanbedr.

It has been reported many times that the privately controlled scheme at Llanbedr Village was not satisfactory. During the year this scheme was handed over to the Council to be controlled by them. The existing old one inch main was replaced by a 2 inch pipe. The spring has been properly harnessed and protected. The storage tank has been enlarged and made impervious, and a new bypass and wash-out arrangements installed and every house connected to the main.

Hillside, Llangattock.

A new water system has been laid to supply the residents of the Hillside. The Ffynnon Ifan spring harnessed, a new storage tank constructed and a 2 inch galvanised iron main with necessary valves, by-pass and wash-out provided.

It was found inadvisable to harness the Kiln spring due to its low yield of water. Therefore a provision was made at the storage tank for householders near the Kiln spring to obtain water at this point, but the conveyance of same by jacks or other utensils to the higher levels is unavoidable.

In connection with the Ffynnon Ifan springs compensation supply had to be laid to Ty'r Phillip.

Private Supply, Llangattock.

Obviously it is impossible for the Sanitary Authority to contemplate providing water for every isolated house or farm. Therefore when such demands arise it has been possible to prevail upon owners, where springs are available to carry out private self contained schemes. In the latter connection this has been done to Llaswern Farm, Hillside where a new storage tank of 1,100 gallons capacity and 450 feet of service pipe were provided.

Bwlch Replacement and Extension.

271 feet of 1 inch galvanised iron pipe extended from a cul-de-sac (brought about by partial abandonment of the old main) has been replaced by a 2 inch main service. These replacements and extensions have provided for two new connections and also makes provision for further connections.

Also 88 feet of service has been replaced through a garden on the Old Road It was necessary to replace them because of their being old and defective.

Extension down Old Road, Bwlch.

Following applications from persons living along the Old Road, Bwlch, the necessary extensions have been investigated. Some difficulty has been experienced with an owner of some of the houses. When this difficulty has been overcome I see no objection to the extension being carried out.

Glangrwyney.

Loss of pressure in the water supply was experienced at the village spout. The supply was inspected and various repairs carried out. The pipes are very old and most probably corroded. The main should be relaid and carried such that each house be connected. A better arrangement would be to consider an entirely new scheme for supplying the village of Glangrwney and connecting up every house in the village. This would necessitate the provision of a storage tank at a sufficiently high level above the existing spring to enable a gravity supply to operate. The latter could only be done by the installation of a means of raising the water from the spring which is at a low level. For the latter purpose a pump, hydram or water-wheel would have to be provided.

Gellifelen Rank.

The water main was extended at Gellifelen rank.

Cwmnantgam Well.

Repairs have been carried out on the Cwmnantgam well. A new door and frame has been fixed.

Draen Spring, Gilwern.

Following a notice of motion it was decided to reconstruct the Draen Tank. This scheme has not been proceeded with.

Troedyrhiw Tank, Clydach.

The Troedyrhiw tank has been reconstructed and enlarged. New springs have been harnessed.

Clydach Main Road Tank.

The covers have been renewed following damage done by stones being rolled down the mountain side.

Southcott's Well, Blaengelly.

The water which was obtained from this source was open to pollution. The spring has been protected and a new pipe line laid and a storage tank constructed.

New Bridge, Gilwern.

With the construction of the new bridge at Gilwern it was found necessary to lower the Back Road. By doing this the cast iron main was exposed. In order that the houses on the Common should be supplied, a temporary service was laid. The cast iron main down the Back Road was defective and it was found necessary to replace it.

It is my opinion that the main on the Common should also be renewed.

General.

Gencral repairs in various parts of the district have been done to prevent the waste of water.

Much private work has been carried out by the Council Connections.

Crickhowell	...	12
Llangattock	...	10
Cwmdu	...	4
Llanelly	...	15
Llangynidr	...	2
Llanbedr	...	17
		60

REPORTS OF PUBLIC ANALYST.

1. Sample of water taken from tap at Glanyrafon, Llangynidr by Chas. G. Gilbertson, Esq., Public Analyst, Swansea.

The Technical Institute,
Wm. Morgan & Seyler,
Public Analyst,
Swansea,
September 27th, 1938.

CHAS. G. GILBERTSON, Esq.

Dear Sir,

Herewith results of my analysis of the sample of water received from you on the 16th inst.

Solids in Solution	...	...	19·10	parts per	100,000
Chlorine as Chlorides	...	...	1·00	,,	,,
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride		...	1·65	,,	,,
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	0·025	,,	,,
Oxygen in Solution	...	...	1·05	,,	,,
Free Carbonic Acid	...	...	2·20	,,	,,
Combined Carbonic Acid	...	...	6 27	,,	,,
Equivalent to Temporary Hardness		...	14·25	,,	,,
Saline Ammonia	...	...	trace.		
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	trace.		
Oxygen required (moist combustion)		...	0·24	,,	,,

To get grains per gallon multiply by 7/10ths.

This water is of good organic purity. Its hardness is a medium one mostly temporary hardness (10 degs. Clark's scale). It would produce some precipitate on boiling, although this would not be harmful. The water had a slight solvent action on lead (0·06 parts per 100,000 in 24 hours laboratory test).

Bacteriological Test.

Herewith results of my analysis of the sample of water received from you on the 16th inst.

The presence or absence of organisms of the Coli group in 15 tests, i.e., 5 each of 10. 1 and 1/10th cubic centimetres of water is expressed in following table by the sign + or—

10 c.c.	1 c.c.	1/10th c.c.
+	+	+
+	+	—
+	+	—
+	+	—
+	+	—

Probable number of Coli per 100 c.c. = 350. The bacteriological condition is bad.

Opinion.

This water could very simply be softened by the Permutit process. Its bacteriological condition is very bad. If from a spring or well the water should be a good one as it comes from the ground. The pollution must be due to surface water subsequently gaining access. It should be possible to trace and remove this.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) CLARENCE SEYLER, B.Sc., F.I.G.

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2. Report on Bacteriological and Chemical Examination of samples of water taken from Glanyrafon House, Llangynidr, taken by the Crickhowell Rural District Council.

9a., The Temple,
Dale Street,
Liverpool, 2.

To the CRICKHOWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report on the chemical and bacteriological examination of sample of water received on the 5/10/37 from Mr. E. R. Morgan, marked "Taken from tap at Glanyrafon House, Llangynidr."

Chemical Examination.

Appearance	... ...	Clear, bright.
Odour	... ...	Nil.

		Parts per 100,000.
Free Ammonia	... ...	.. 0·001
Albuminoid Ammonia	... ...	... Nil.
Chlorine	... ..	.. 1·0
calculated as salt		1·7
Nitrates	... ...	... 0·18
Nitrites	... ..	... Nil.
Total Hardness as Caco...	...	... 8·7
Total Solids	... ...	... 16·5
Oxygen consumed at 27 degs C.		
in 15 minutes		... 0·003
in 4 hours		... 0·009
Number of organisms per c.c. developed on Agar during 48 hours at 37 degs. C.		... 11

Organisms of the Coli Group were present in concentrations of 50, 25, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 c.c. of the sample examined.

B. Coli Type :—

Non-liquifying causing fluorescence in neutral red solution, fermenting glucose and lactose with formation of acid and gas, forming indole in Peptone water and forming acid and curd in milk.

Remarks.

The results obtained from the Chemical Analysis indicate water of good purity, but the bacteriological condition cannot be considered satisfactory in a water intended for drinking purposes.

The total number of organisms present is not excessive but the presence of B. Coli in all concentrations examined is a particularly unsatisfactory feature.

(Sd)—H. J. EVANS, F.I.C.,

Public Analyst.

20th October, 1937.

3. Report on the bacteriological examination of sample of water received on 14—10—37 from Mr. E. R. Morgan marked "Taken from Glanyrafon House, Llangynidr."

Number of organisms per c.c. developed on Agar during 48 hours at 37 degs. C. ... ... 16.

Organisms of the Coli Group were present in concentrations of 50, 25, 20, and 10 c.c.s. but absent in 5, 2, and 1 c.c.s. of the sample examined.

B. Coli Type.

Non-liquifying causing fluorescence in neutral red solution, fermenting glucose and lactose with formation of acid and gas forming Indole in Peptone water and forming acid and curd in milk.

Remarks.

The bacteriological condition of this water is still unsatisfactory.

(Sd.) H. J. EVANS,

Public Analyst.

4. To E. R. MORGAN, Esq.

Report on the bacteriological examination of water received on 25/11/37 from Crickhowell R.D.C. marked " Rhiwgarn Farm Yard Tap, Llangynidr."

Number of organisms per c.c. developed on Agar during 48 hours at 37 degs. C. 81

Organisms of the Coli group were present in concentrations of 50, 25, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 c.c. of the sample examined.

B. Coli Type :—

Non-liquifying causing fluorescence in Neutral Red Solution, fermenting glucose and lactose with formation of acid and gas, forming acid and curd in milk.

(Sd.)—H. J. EVANS, F.I.C.,
Public Analyst.

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5. Report on the bacteriological examination of sample of water received on 25/12/37 from Crickhowell R.D.C. marked No. 2 Rhiwgarn Lane Spring Chamber, Llangynidr.

Number of organisms per c.c. developed on Agar during 48 hours at 37 degs. C. 8

B. Coli Type :—

As in Rhiwgarn Farm Yard Tap.

---

6. To E. R. MORGAN, Esq.

Report on the bacteriological examination of sample of water received on 25/11/37, from Crickhowell R.D.C. marked No. 3 Upper Spring Chamber, Pwll Court Field, taken from tap at School.

Number of organisms per c.c. developed on Agar during 24 hours at 37 degs. C. 13

Organisms of the Coli Group were absent in concentrations of 50, 25, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 c.c. of the sample examined.

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7. Report on the bacteriological examination of sample of water received on 25/11/37, from The Crickhowell R.D.C. marked No. 4 Lower Spring Chambkr Tank, Pwll Court Field, Llangynidr, taken from the overflow by the brook.

Number of organisms per c.c. developed on Agar during 48 hours at 37 degs. C. 14

Organisms of the Coli Group were present in concentrations of 50, 25, 20 and 10 c.c., but absent in concentrations of 5, 2 and 1 c.c. of the sample examined.

B. Coli Type.

As in Rhiwgarn Farm Yard Tap, Llangynidr.

Sewerage and Drainage.

Proposed Sewerage Schemes.

Sewerage schemes have been prepared for submission to the Commissioner for Special Areas as follow :—

(a) Improvements in the Crickhowell Town Sewerage System.

(b) New sewerage and closet conversion schemes for the village of Llangattock.

(c) New combined Sewage Disposal Works at Crickhowell to deal with the sewage of Crickhowell and Llangattock in connection with the foregoing.

(d) New sewerage, sewage disposal works and conversion schemes at Gilwern.

Surveys have been carried out, plans and estimates prepared and submitted to the Commissioner and the Ministry of Health. Negotiations are proceeding for the necessary land for the Sewage Works. Conferences and discussions are still proceeding with a view to expediting these matters.

In the meantime sanction was obtained from the Commissioner to extend the public sewer along Llangenny Lane, Crickhowell, in connection with the erection of new houses. This scheme is to rank for a similar percentage of grant as will eventually be granted in respect of the larger scheme.

The position so far as the provision of a sewerage scheme for Clydach, Blackrock, and Llanelly Hill is still very nebulous.

Gelly Drain.

A small drainage system was installed at this village for slop water purposes. This scheme so far as it goes has abated a serious nuisance and met with the approval of the householders. However an extension would bring further benefits to this village.

Public Cleansing.

Although some of the agricultural parishes have no scavenging systems, the district, generally speaking is well scavenged.

Eight separate contracts operate for house to house collection. In two parishes three times weekly, and in another twice weekly. Included in the above is a collection of night soil once weekly in Llangattock and emptying of privies, pails and cesspools in the latter parish.

A demand exists for an extension of these arrangements to other parishes.

A scheme was prepared at the request of the Llangynidr Parish Council for the scavenging of Llangynidr. Alternative schemes were submitted. Negotiations are still proceeding for a suitable tipping site, and it is probable that one of these schemes will be adopted in the near future.

Cost of Scavenging : for Financial Year ending 31st March, 1938

Parish	*Materials Collected*	*Times*	*Cost* £ s. d.
Crickhowell ...	Household Refuse ...	3 times weekly ...	104 0 0
Llangattock ...	Household Refuse ... Night Soil, Cesspools ...	2 ,, once weekly	176 9 2
Llanelly			
Gilwern (Village)	Household Refuse ...	3 times weekly ...	71 10 0
Gilwern (Wenallt)	Household Refuse ...	once fortnightly	13 0 0
Clydach and Blackrock...	Household Refuse ...	3 times weekly ...	52 0 0
Clydach (Stationside) ...	Household Refuse ...	,, ...	58 10 0
Llanelly Hill ...	Household Refuse ...	,, ...	39 0 0

Street Lighting.

Crickhowell is the only parish in the district in which street lighting obtains, and this has been done by means of gas. The Gas Works are owned by a private company, and have been in existence for many years. The plant is very old and there have been frequent complaints of street lamps failing to function.

As the Electric Power Co. have mains at Crickhowell, they were invited together with the Gas Co. to tender for 3 and 5 years respectively. The tender was given to the Gas Company. The Electric Power Co. mains have been extended to Gilwern in the Parish of Llanelly.

Plans have also been submitted by the Electric Power Co. to extend their mains from Crickhowell to Brecon passing Tretower and Bwlch. Extensions are also being made to the village of Llangattock.

There is a strong public demand for street lighting at Gilwern where the mains exist, and in due course there will probably be a demand from the village of Llangattock.

The Council have not yet given consideration to the Ministry of Transport's Departmental Committee Final Report on Street Lighting If the recommendations made therein are adopted the method of street lighting will be revolutionised and cost of same considerably increased. However grants are obtainable thereunder.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Handbills and informal notices have been served upon occupiers of business premises and private houses pointing out their duties under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919. The Council's Sanitary Orderly has set baits in the following areas :—

Llangattock Tipping Site and Disposal Site : baited 3 times, 135 baits.
Crickhowell Refuse Tip : Baited 3 times, 210 baits.
Crickhowell Sewage Disposal Works (Garn and Orchards) : baited 3 times, 75 baits.
Crickhowell Sewer Manholes : 15 baits.
Gilwern Refuse Tip : Baited once, 70 baits.

In addition to the above he has co-operated with private persons and much good as resulted therefrom.

Petroleum and Carbide.

Licences issued (Petroleum)	...	14
(Carbide)	...	15

Air Raid Precautions.

The District Council are agents of the County Council for the administration in this area of the County A.R.P. Scheme. The Sanitary —Surveyor was appointed as District Co-ordinating Officer. The following members of the staff attended a week's course in A.R.P. at the County A.R.P. School.

E. R. Morgan, District Co-ordinating Officer.

A. J. Rogers, Accountant.

T. J. Jones, Rate Collector.

Vincent Leslie, Assistant Rate Collector.

G. M. James, Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Wm. Bowen, Caretaker.

The additional duties falling upon the Council under the County Scheme entail a considerable amount of additional work and expense and it is difficult to visualize how this can be done by the present staff.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories	15	Nil	Nil
Workshops	21	Nil	Nil
Workplaces	9	Nil	Nil
Total	45	Nil	Nil

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops & Workplaces

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness ...	2	2	Nil	Nil
Want of Ventilation ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Want of Drainage of Floors...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other Nuisances ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Accommodation—				
Insufficient ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unsuitable or defective...	1	1	Nil	Nil
Not separate for sexes ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	3	3	Nil	Nil

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

Statistical Report under article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Inspections made	2917
Informal notices served	253
Informal notices complied with	201
Informal notices outstanding	52
Statutory notices served	3
Statutory notices complied with	3
Statutory notices partly complied with ...	Nil
Statutory notices outstanding	Nil

Matters dealt with in above inspections :—

Ashtips
Ashbins
Ash Lorries and Carts
Boats
Bakehouses
Backyards
Bread Vans
Buses
Bugs
Closets
Campers
Cesspools
Canals
Chimneys
Collieries
Carbide
Cowsheds
Churns
Cats
Domestic killing
Drains
Diseases
Dogs
Disinfection
Dead animals
Factories
Food shops
Fish hawkers
Fruit shops
Fairs
Fleas
Footways
Fireplaces
Gipsies
Garages
Graveyards
Housing
Highways
Hydrants
Manure
Meat shops
Meat Vans
Markets
Mice
Milk sellers
Offal boiling
Public Halls
Public paths
Petroleum
Quarries
Rivers
Rats
Rag and Bone Vendors
Sewerage and Sewage
Smoke
Schools
Septic tanks
Springs
Slaughterhouses
Tuberculosis
Trees
Urinals
Verminous persons
Waterworks
Workshops, etc.
Wells
Water Fittings

Shops.

No occasion has been found to take action under the Shops Act, 1934.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

No action necessary.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Fleas.

The Council have no houses, but disinfectants and insecticides are supplied to the public on application.

Schools.

It was found necessary that certain Schools to be closed towards the end of the year due to an epidemic of measles.

Further particulars of closure elsewhere in the report.

SECTION D.

Housing Act, 1936.

This department has been criticised for its delay in enforcing the Act of 1936, but the Council will know the difficulties which exist in a distressed area such as this. However, a definite step was taken in 1937 to deal with houses which are unfit and cannot be rendered fit at a reasonable cost.

I presented my Official Representations in respect of 33 houses to be dealt with under Section 25—Clearance Areas, and one under Section 11—Individual Unfit House.

On December 14th, 1937, a Local Public Inquiry was held to consider the 33 houses scheduled in the Clearance Areas. The case was presented by the Clerk, Medical Officer of Health, and Sanitary Inspector on behalf of the Council. The owners presented their objections themselves, or by agents, or by solicitors and architects. The hearing was presided over by A. Archer-Betham, Esq., F.R.I.B.A., of the Ministry of Health.

All of the foregoing houses are in the Parish of Crickhowell and does not necessarily include all houses which should be dealt with under the Act, in this parish in particular or the district in general.

Overcrowding Provisions.

The inspection of houses under the overcrowding provisions has now been practically completed. A detailed result shown elsewhere, does not indicate any serious overcrowding.

Circulars were posted to agents and owners indicating the chief provisions of the Housing Act, 1935, with special reference to entries on rent books, also inviting such owners to apply to this office for such particulars regarding the property. The response was not as anticipated.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year* :—

(1)	(*a*)	Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)... ...	825
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	907
(2)	(*a*)	Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	512
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	531
(3)		Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... (It is difficult to answer this question, but 34 are being dealt with immediately).	34
(4)		Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	21

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices* :—

Number of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	18

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(a) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... Nil

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By Owners ... ... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil

(b) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—*

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 74

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ... 6

(a) By owners 6

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(c) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :*

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1

(ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... Nil

(d) *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made ... Nil

(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part iv—Overcrowding :—*

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 33

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... 38

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .. 189

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... Nil

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 1

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 5

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding... Nil

PLANS RECEIVED.

New houses, bungalows, other building & reconstructions

Plan No.	Nature of Building	Situation	Parish
A95	Bungalow ...	Abergavenny—Gilwern Rd. (W. Greatwood) ...	Llanelly
97	House ...	Bwlch (L. J. Davies) ...	Cwmdu
B98	Electric Extensions	Crickhowell—Brecon (S.W.S.)	
99	Electric Extensions	Llangenny Lane ...	Crickhowell.
101	2 Houses ...	Llangenny Lane ...	Crickhowell.
102	House (reconstruction)	Gilwern (J. John) ...	Llanelly
103 & 104	Electric Extensions	Crickhowell—Llanbedr (S.W.S.)	Crickhowell and Llanbedr
105	Reconstruction into Hospital	Greenhill ...	Crickhowell.
106	Reconstruction of Cottage	Cyffredin (J. Gibbs) ...	Llangynidr
107	Electric Extensions	Gilwern ...	Llanelly
108	Electric Extensions	Gilwern ...	Llanelly
110	Wooden structure ...	Cwmdu (R. Davies) ...	Cwmdu
112	2 Houses ...	Llangenny Lane ...	Crickhowell.
113	House ...	Rectory Road ...	Crickhowell.
114	Site Plan ...	Abergavenny—Gilwern Road (J. Merton Jones) ...	Llanelly

Alterations.

96	Bathroom, wash-house & W.C.	Bridge End Inn, Gilwern	Llanelly
C100	Bathroom, wash-house & W.C.	Bridge End Inn, Gilwern	Llanelly
111	Alterations to drainage system	Plas, Llangattock ...	Llangattock

A—This plan has not been proceeded with.

B—Passes through Crickhowell Rural District.

C—Amended plan of No. 96.

Restriction of Ribbon Development Act, 1935.

The operation of this Act is a serious handicap to the erection of dwelling-houses by private enterprise in this district. The Act should certainly be amended in the light of the result of its arbitrary administration by highway authorities in areas such as this.

SECTION E.

Milk Supply.

During the year 1937, 15 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination.

The results of the examinations as carried out by Mr. H. J. Evans, Public Analyst, Liverpool were as follows :

Code No.	*Methylene Blue Test*	*Coliform Bacillus present 1/1000 in 0, 1, 2 or 3 tubes*	*Whether or not satisfied Coliform Test*
1	s	0	s
2	s	2	
3	s	1	
4	s	0	s
5	s	2	
6	s	0	s
7	s	0	s
8	3	3	
9	3½	3	
10	2½	3	
11	s	0	s
12	s	0	s
13	s	0	s
14	s	1	
15	s	0	s

It will be noted from the above table that the analysis are as applied to graded milks. Although that is the case it is my opinion all ungraded milks should attain this standard. The producers were notified of the results of the analysis of the sample of the milk obtained from them, and warned where necessary.

Extracts from the Milk and Dairies Registers.

Toward the end of the year questionairres were sent to all the farmers in the district with a view to the revision of the Milk and Dairies Registers. The register is now up-to-date.

Farms and other premises registered as dairies		...	109
Wholesale producers of milk	..	...	29
Retailers of milk ...	...	...	50
Retailers who produce their milk in the district		...	46
" Accredited " Milk Producers	...	...	6

There are no producers of " Tuberculin Tested " milk licenced in this district. There are no persons in this district who hold a licence to sell pasteurised or to pasteurise milk.

Much of the milk produced in this district is sold in neighbouring industrial areas, and following information from the Medical Officers of health in those areas, investigations have been carried out, and necessary action taken in cases of unsatisfactory samples.

Samples of milk for examination for Tuberculi Bacilli are taken by the County Veterinary Surgeon.

Sample taken by this Council are for examination as to cleanliness of the milk.

The granting of Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, is carried out by the Breconshire County Council. There is harmonious co-operation between this department and the County Veterinary Officer regarding the :—

(a) condition of milking cows.

(b) condition and construction of cowsheds.

(c) production of clean milk.

(d) sampling of milk.

Meat and other Foods.

Registered Slaughterhouses	...	2
Licenced Slaughterhouses	...	4
Licenced Slaughtermen	...	16

I am satisfied that the butchers in this area purchase good quality animals, as their trade is generally a family trade and animals, slaughtered are almost exclusively reared by local farmers. I do not think these butchers would foist upon the public inferior meat and should any butcher try to do so the people living in a rural area would quickly resent same as they are not without knowledge of good prime meat.

If it were necessary to inspect every carcase and organ of every animal slaughtered in a rural area such as this the public health staff would have to be increased.

Occasional Slaughter.

The same remarks apply to occasional slaughter as in previous reports.

Adulteration of Food.

This Council is not an authority under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928. The provisions of this Act are administered by the Breconshire County Council.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Apart from bacteriological examination of milk no other action taken. For results thereof, see previous list of milk samples.

Nutrition.

Apart from the supply of milk by the Breconshire County Council (Education Authority) to the various Schools, no action has been taken by this Council.

Shellfish (Molluscan).

There are no shellfish beds or layings in this district.

SECTION F.

There was no epidemic during the year 1937, of any notifiable infectious diseases. It was found necessary in a few cases to send to the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine swabs of suspected diphtheria patients. In all cases however it was found that Diptheria Bacillus was not present.

It will be noticed from the appended table that two cases of scarlet fever were admitted to an Isolation Hospital (Monmouth Isolation Hospital). Isolation was essential in these cases owing to the peculiar conditions arising in the home. All other notified infectious disease patients were nursed at home. The conditions of such nursing were investigated and found to be satisfactory.

Toward the end of the year it was found necessary that certain schools in the district should be closed owing to an epidemic of measles.

Table of Schools Closed and Causes.

School	*Period Closed from*	*To*	*Disease*
Crickhowell Cl.	... 20/1/37	5/2/37	... Influenza
,,	... 7/12/37	17/12/37	... Measles
,,	... 21/12/37	After Xmas Hols.	... ,,
Crickhowell N.P.	... 6/12/37	17/12/37	... ,,
,,	... 21/12/37	After Xmas Hols.	... ,,
Llangattock N.P.	... 22/11/37	,,	... ,,
Llangenny N.P.	... 8/12/37	18/12/37	... ,,
Llangynidr N.P.	... 20/12/37	After Xmas Hols.	... ,,
Gilwern Council	... 19/7/37	30/7/37	... Scarlet Fever

Your obedient servant,

J. S. TOWNLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1937.

DISEASE	*Total Cases Notified*	*Cases admitted to Hospital*	*Total Deaths*
Smallpox ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever ...	18	2	Nil
Diphtheria ..	1	Nil	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia ...	6	Nil	Nil
Other diseases ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other diseases Local ...	Nil	Nil	Nil

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease	under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 ×
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	1	1	—	14	1	—	—	1	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
25	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	3	3	1	1	4	2	—	1

1 Patient case died from Pulmonary Tuberculosis without notification.